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# Embassy of the United States of America

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## The United States continues to provide emergency relief to victims of flooding

*Humanitarian relief has been delivered to more than 7,500 families in 6 departments*

On March 13, the U.S. Government in Bolivia, through its Agency for International Development (USAID), delivered another 5 tons of food to be distributed among the victims of flooding in more than 70 communities in the departments of Pando and Beni.

The Narcotics Affairs Section of the U.S. Embassy (NAS) transported the food by means of a C-130 aircraft that left the Military Airport in El Alto for Riberalta. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), a USAID partner in Bolivia, is coordinating the distribution of the food from Riberalta to the affected communities using boats provided by ADRA, the Sub Prefecture of Riberalta, and the Bolivian Navy.

The relief aid for those departments will total approximately 50 metric tons. The municipalities of Gonzalo Moreno, Puerto Rico, Sena, San Lorenzo and San Pedro in the province of Madre de Dios will receive this relief donation.

USAID has made available up to 350 metric tons of food for the residents of flooded regions in six departments of the country. To date, the U.S. Government's humanitarian assistance has been distributed to more than 7,500 families that live in the most seriously affected areas in the departments of Pando, La Paz, Santa Cruz, Oruro, Potosí and Beni.

The U.S. Government emergency relief provided in response to the floods is estimated at more than \$1 million and includes plastic tents, water tanks, blankets, food (flour, peas, vegetable oil, wheat), supplies, equipment, and logistical support.

The U.S. Embassy in Bolivia is capable of providing donations and diverse relief operations according to the needs of Bolivians. For instance, the Embassy's Narcotics Affairs Section (NAS) has authorized the use of its helicopters, which are flown by Bolivian Air Force Red Devils to provide transportation to the Bolivian President and senior governmental officials to visit the disaster areas. The NAS' helicopters also rescued people stranded by the floods. Also, the NAS authorized the use of its C-130 aircraft to deliver humanitarian relief and evacuate almost 200 people that had become isolated due to the flooding in Riberalta and Guayaramerin.

In the past four years, the Embassy's Military Group donated more than \$400,000 to the Bolivian Civil Defense office. The donation included tractors, trucks, medical equipment, supplies, blankets, and other items that are now being used to respond to the current humanitarian crisis.

The U.S. humanitarian relief is another sample of the friendship between the United States and Bolivia.